The Faith that Saves

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Text. 1 Peter 1:3-4 in connection with 5 Who by the power of God are guarded thru faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Intro. In order to understand our text we must know the sense in which the word FAITH is used.

1. Faith as used in the text is more than belief.

James uses Faith in the sense of belief. "Faith without works is dead".

Faith here refers to the the Jewish orthodoxy The creed of the church. James says that unless one's creed has its logical outcome in conduct it cannot save. Merely to believe(to give intellectual assent to) that God is and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world cannot save anyone.

Many church members trust to their membership in the church to save them, believing ~~that their assent~~ to the doctrines of the church is sufficient. They can play cards, gamble, break the 18th amendment to the constitution of U.S.A., live lustfully and for pleasures only, but because they believe in the Bible and the doctrines as held be the church of which theyae are members they think that they are saved.

2. Faith as used in our text is a matter of belief and a consequent matter of trusting.

Belief that God is, creator of all things, and as a loving Father towards us who, thru Christ, opens up to us the way of salvation.

Acting upon this belief we put our trust in God to let Him have His way with us and to receive from Him power that enables us to overcome our lower self inclined to sin and wrong-doing, which delivers us from trials, persecutions and sufferings, and which ultimately will give us entrance into His kingdom of perfect perfect being.

I. The world is full of belief in God but Faith that saves is very rare.

1. Very little infidelity left. Most people who never go to church believe in God. A thousand and one forms of belief today. But the bulk of such believing is not saving anybody.

When a man thinks he is being saved by his belief but is not, his belief is worse than good-for-nothing it is damning him instead of saving him.

2. Faith must be tested by its fruits. What kind of faith have you? Is yours a saving fa th or a damning faith?

If I shoudl ask you, "Are you a believer?" you would likely reply, "Of course I am, what do you think I am, a heathen?" But does your life show the fruits of a true believer? If in your conduct you act as tho God had no existance and no influene over you, if in all your comings and goings and doings you live absolutely indifferent to the existance of God, if you live from day to day as tho God were not, what good is your belief in Him? The world is full of intellectual belief that bears no fruit.

Ask any drunkard if he believes in sobriety and he will tell you forcibly that he does, but he will get drunk again if he can get whiskey. Go to our prisons and ask the men behind the bars if they do not believe that it is best to be law-abiding and upright and honest, and they will assent "Yes" most heartily, but their belief did not save them from prison.

II. The faith that saves leads you to repentance fm all evil and transforms your life. The saving faith of the New testament changes your heart and your appetites and desires. This saving faith reaches down into the very roots of your inner beings and purifies its hidden springs. This saving faith enables you to overcome evil and take hold of goodness and truth and love.